

# NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA  
Department of Industrial Relations  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## ALABAMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS SLIGHTLY IN APRIL

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, May 16, 2008 . . . . . Alabama recorded a 4.0 percent April unemployment rate, a slight decline from 4.1 percent in March. The state unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in April 2007.

“The April jobless rate represents 89,188 unemployed persons, compared to 90,944 in March, and 74,751 in April 2007,” says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director.

“The comparable April U.S. jobless rate is 5.0 percent, an slim drop from 5.1 percent in March. The national unemployment rate in April 2007 was 4.5 percent.”

Over the year, there was a net gain of 15,700 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+5,400), government (+4,700), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+4,500). Manufacturing (-5,700) experienced the majority of job losses.

The lowest county unemployment rates for April are: Shelby (2.3 percent), Madison (2.5 percent), and Baldwin, Tuscaloosa and Limestone (2.7 percent). The highest county rates for April are: Chambers (10.7 percent), Wilcox (9.5 percent), and Dallas (8.0 percent).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on “Alabama Labor Market Information Division” under “Quick Links” & follow prompts.